

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

She's been there before.

Audiences across the country listen raptly as McCorvey, a Texan, testifies to the power of the Savior that freed her from the

She also talks freely about one of her biggest mistakes — allowing feminist abortion supporters to use her name to change the course of American culture, jurisprudence, medicine, and history.

McCormey accepted Christ

She is joined by Sandra Cano, a Georgia woman who says she was tricked into becoming the plaintiff in *Doe v. Bolton*, a companion case to *Roe v. Wade* that U.S. Supreme

Both women, who have filed Friend of the Court briefs in a New Jersey case that may well wind its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, spoke against abortion at the Operation Outcry Rally held on the evening of November 8 at Trinity Church, Southaven.

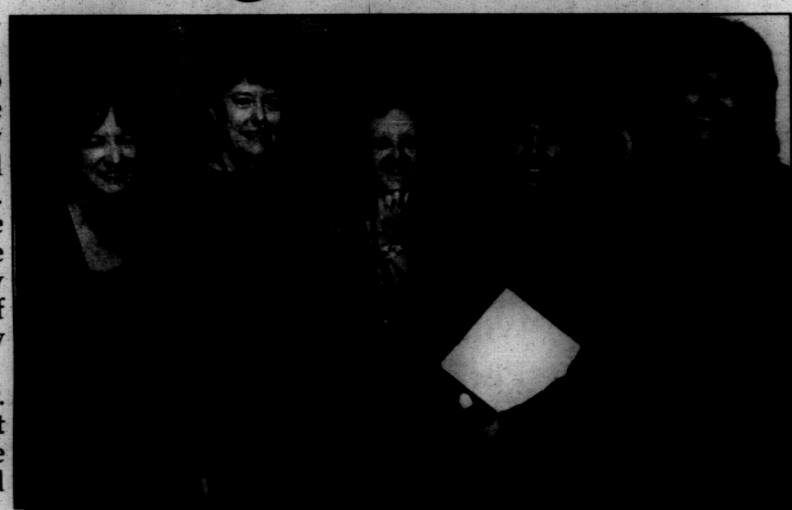
McCorvey echoed Cano's sentiments, saying, "I believe God wants us to stop it."

As a 15-year-old student council president and cheerleader, she underwent an abortion that left permanent physical and emotional scars.

Renne said as the suction abortion got underway, "I began to panic. Everything inside me shook. Tears began to flow. Nobody ever told me it was a baby, but at that point nobody had to."

Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC), presented over 1,000 Friend of the Court briefs signed by Mississippi Baptists to be used in the New Jersey case.

Porter has urged Mississippi Baptists to become involved in the campaign to overturn *Roe v. Wade* by filling out the Friend of



SOLID BACKING — Norma McCorvey (center) receives words of support from Jackson Right to Life (JRTL) members following the Operation Outcry rally November 8 at Trinity Church, Southaven. Visiting with McCorvey were (from left) Harriet Ashley, member of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; Pat Cartrette, JRTL executive director; Melody Hylander, member of Cornerstone Church, Jackson; and Joyce Hopkins, member of First Church, Raymond. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

the Court forms, which can be obtained by contacting the commission at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: rwood@mbcb.org.

An affidavit form is also available from CAC for post-abortion women who want to get involved in the New Jersey case.

The Friend of the Court briefs from Mississippi Baptists were accepted by R. Clayton Trotter, TJF staff attorney. A tenured law professor who gave up his faculty position to fight *Roe v. Wade* full time, he said, "God hates the shedding of innocent blood. I couldn't stand by and let that happen any more. I will not keep silent until the Supreme Court abolishes *Roe v. Wade*."

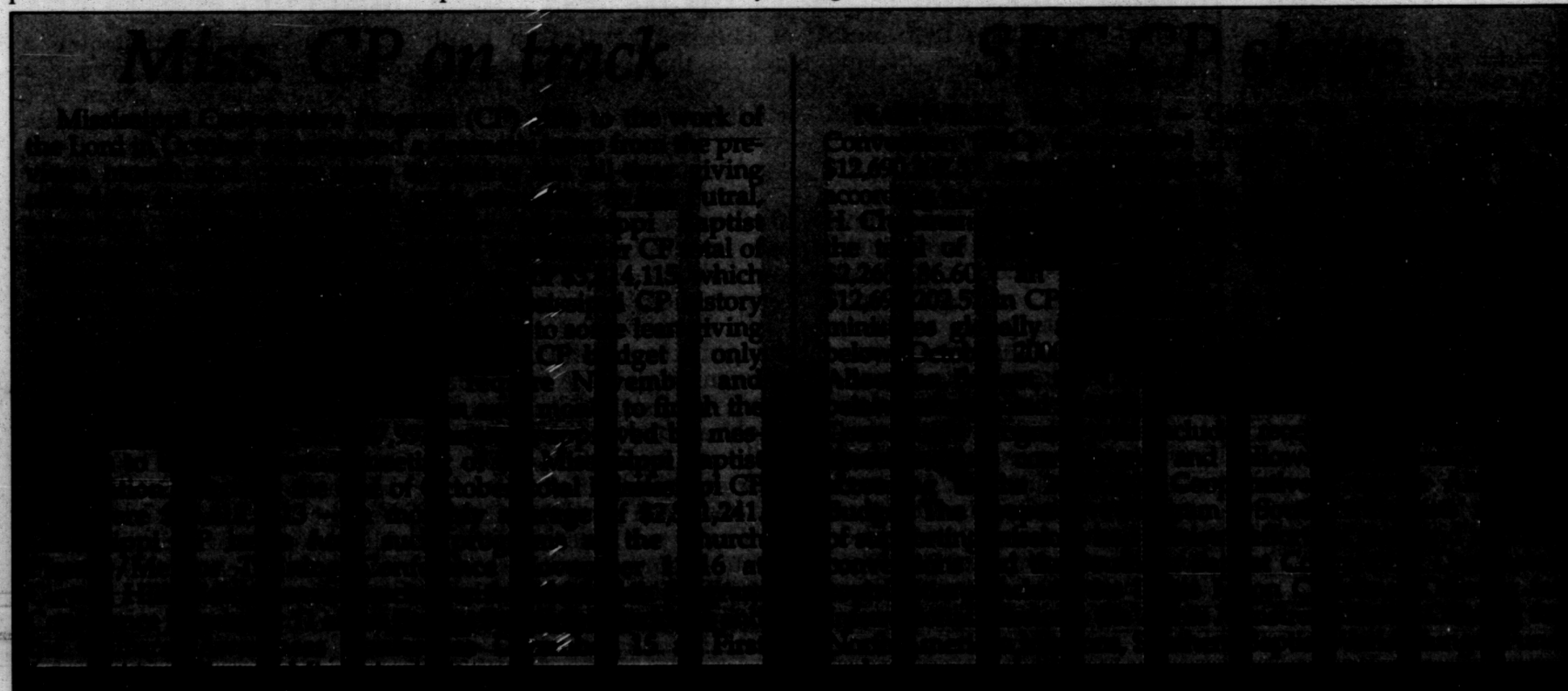
The Texas Justice Foundation can be contacted at 8122 Datapoint, Suite 812, San Antonio, Texas, 78229.

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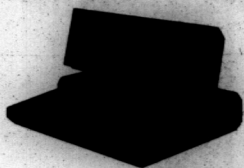


OFFERING SUPPORT — Sandra Cano (center) receives a hug from an unidentified woman who attended the Operation Outcry Rally November 8 at Trinity Church, Southaven. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Delivery of the November 22 issue of The Baptist Record may be delayed due to the holiday.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Our fruitless words

I went to the mall on October 31 and nothing happened. Aside from the fact that nothing usually happens when men go to the mall, that feat is worthy of mention because it served as my personal defiance of the fear and rumor mongering so prevalent in our post-September 11 culture. In case you missed it, the story went like this:

An American woman is dating an Arab man in this country on a student visa. When she can't get in touch with him, she goes to his apartment and discovers it has been cleaned out to the bare walls. The landlord says the guy must have moved out during the night.

After several frantic days of searching for him, he finally calls her. With an air of desperation, he tells her, "I can't talk about where I am or what I'm doing. I'd be killed if they knew I was making this call; just don't get on an airplane on September 11 or go to a mall on Halloween. I love you." With that, he hangs up the telephone and is never heard from again.

I'm alive today to testify that nothing happened on that Halloween night I visited the mall, and apparently there are several million other Americans who also survived their Halloween mall experience.

In normal times, people are apt to be suckered by urban legends. In extraordinarily stressful times like the present, however, urban legends are often afforded a legitimacy beyond intellectual comprehension.

Did you hear the one about the photo of the tourist standing on the observation deck of the World Trade Tower, a date stamp in the lower right-hand corner reading 09-11-01 and an American Airlines jet in the background bearing down on the building?

It's a fake. The shadows don't match up. The young man is wearing winter clothing on a warm September day in New York City, and a Brazilian recently stepped forward to say that he is the person in the photo but has no

idea who doctored it to insert the date stamp and jetliner.

Then there's the alleged prediction by Nostradamus, a 16th-century French physician and astrologer famous for this quatrains of future travail: In the city of York there will be a great collapse, two twin brothers torn apart by chaos/while the fortress falls; the great leader will succumb/third big war will begin when the big city is burning.

Not true. Nostradamus, although the master of vague predictions, never wrote anything even remotely resembling the above.

Experts struggle to explain why people get so wrapped up in urban legends, but Christians should be especially careful not to indulge in these tales for a number of reasons:

◆ Our eternal future is sealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We don't need 16th-century psychics or modern-day fortune tellers to frighten or reassure us.

◆ Spreading rumors, like spreading gossip, harms our witness to the lost and only indicates to unbelievers that we conduct ourselves no differently than the world. If we talk the talk, we'd better be able to walk the walk.

"HONEY, STRESS IS NOT SIMPLY
PAR FOR THE COURSE — IT IS
THE COURSE."



◆ Rumor mongering is a fruitless waste of time. The Bible admonishes us many times over to avoid that which is not spiritually productive (Ps. 1:3; Matt. 7:15-21; John 15:1-7).

In these unsettled times of increased rumors and gossip, let us not be counted among those who indulge in this unseemly practice. After all, we very well might not have enough time left as it is to tell everyone the Good News about Jesus.

Let's get busy and spend all our remaining time doing nothing else.

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under heaven: a time to be born
and a time to die, a time to plant
and a time to uproot. Ecc. 3:1-2 (NIV)*

These words from Ecclesiastes are difficult to digest, especially when it involves change. No one enjoys change; it is only natural to want to continue doing what is familiar and comfortable.

When necessary, however, we must be ready to step out in faith and accept the inevitable.

Some people have questioned the choices that south Jackson churches are making as a result of this need for change. Communities in this area are in transition and many challenges exist because of the shifting seasons.

Some congregations have voted to stay and minister to the community. Others will eventually relocate. Sadly, some may refuse to change in any way, possibly resulting in a continuing decline in membership and closing of their doors entirely.

Each body of believers must answer the question of where its responsibilities lie. Although it is easy for others to think they know what a church should or should not do, each congregation must decide on its own where God is leading them.

GUEST OPINION:



A season for change

By Jamie Holden

Dir. of Education/Administration
Hillcrest Church, Jackson

Several years ago the need became apparent to the leadership and some of the members of Hillcrest Church in south Jackson that our congregation must step out of its comfort zone and do something different, otherwise the death of Hillcrest would come all too soon.

Many families were moving to other areas; our membership was drastically declining. Very few children, the future of any congregation, were attending.

We were unable to reach the changing community around us even though we attempted new ministries, activities, neighborhood surveys, mass mail-outs, and other means to draw the unchurched.

After much prayer and seeking God's will, the conclusion was to begin a mission church in the Byram area and see how the Lord would lead from there.

Subsequently, many doors were opened and other doors were closed.

It was soon clear that after 54 years of service to Christ in south Jackson the season for Hillcrest to minister here was over and a new season of service was beginning, which would eventually lead to 5950 Terry Road in Byram.

The question, "What will happen to the community after we leave?" has been asked. The reality is that when God is finished using one ministry to further his Kingdom, he will open the door for another.

Greater Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church, led by Pastor F.L. Blount, recently bought the Hillcrest facilities at 3102 Monticello Drive and has begun their season of ministry. Sunday, August 26th, was their first worship service, which

coincided with Blount's 20th anniversary of leading this ministry.

I had the privilege and joy of attending that service. Overwhelming is the only word to describe the experience of sitting in the back of the sanctuary and seeing it once again packed with Christian brothers and sisters praising the Lord.

How exciting it was to see the parking lot full. The speaker mentioned the 54 years that Hillcrest has served in this area and how, Lord willing, Greater Tree of Life will at least do the same.

How exciting it will be to see the membership of Greater Tree of Life reaching the community and filling the sanctuary once again with new converts and people desiring to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pray for this fellowship of believers as the season for their ministry begins on Monticello Drive, and pray for Hillcrest as we begin our season at a new location. Especially pray for the other churches in south Jackson and other areas as they continue to seek the will of God for their congregation.

Yes, changes in seasons are sometimes difficult, but are a necessary and even exciting part of God's plan to reach a lost and dying world.

Kenyan realizes dream to become pastor

BUSIA, Kenya (BP) — When Naphtali Eroni Ochil's classmates dreamed of being doctors and politicians, he dreamed of being a pastor.

The biggest challenge was learning to read and write.

Ochil's family couldn't afford to send the aspiring young pastor to high school, let alone seminary. Yet, Ochil hoped and prayed that one day God would provide him with the chance to lead a church.

In 1998, prayers were answered for the young Kenyan when a new Bible school close to his home started through the help of volunteers from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Before this school, there were only two seminary graduates from western Kenya. It was too expensive to pay for school fees and to pay for transport," Ochil said. "Now we have a school right here and more and more of us are being trained to be church leaders."

Ochil was among 19 students participating in the first graduation at Busia Baptist Centre's Bible School on Oct. 19. Approximately 250 people attended the graduation, including a representative of Kenya's minister of finance and LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr.

Designed to provide training for Baptist leaders in the area, students attend classes one or two weeks per month. Upon completion of the two-year program, a certificate of study is issued.

The partnership between Busia-area Baptists and LifeWay began in 1997 when



GRADUATION CELEBRATION — James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay Christian Resources, Kenyan pastor Samson Kisia, David Gitau, principal of Busia Bible School, and Mark Ndinyo, a member of the first graduating class, stand in front of the school built with funds contributed by LifeWay employees. (BP photo by Michael Yarber)

volunteers came to help with a special crusade in the western provinces.

Nine LifeWay employees joined others in going house to house introducing the gospel to an area dominated by beliefs in ancestral spirits. At the time, there were only six Baptist churches. LifeWay teams returned to the area again in 1998 and 1999.

Five years later, more than 125 Baptist churches can be found throughout the area. Mike Livingstone, editor in chief of adult ministry publications at LifeWay, said the Bible school grew out of all the new churches started.

"As we kept coming back to help year after year, we saw a real need for leadership development and discipleship," Livingstone said. "We didn't

plan for this type of response. It just happened."

LifeWay employees donated enough money to buy a plot of land and build classrooms. The students volunteered their labor in making bricks and constructing the four-building campus. Volunteers from LifeWay taught many of the Bible school classes.

Through the last four or five years, Livingstone said he has seen maturity and growth among the Christians and pastors.

"There's a hunger for learning here," he said. "I see pastors bringing church members to the school with them. Everyone is wanting to learn more."

Kenyan pastor Samson Kisia affirmed the spiritual growth in western Kenya. During his commencement speech, Kisia congratulated the young Baptist leaders for their diligent work.

He also told the graduates that with their school days over, it is now time to work harder than ever.

"I look around and see what God has done since 1997 and I thank him very much," Kisia said. "Back then, there were only a few churches. We were told that Busia was too far away and that we should not go do evangelism there."

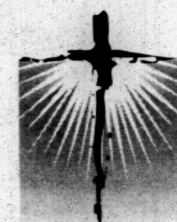
"We came and realized that if you are looking to work for Jesus, Busia is the place."

Looking into the faces of the graduates, Kisia called them precious results of God's work in the area.

Draper, who spoke at the graduation, said he was impressed that two persons accepted Christ as their Savior at the conclusion of the service.

"Twenty-five area pastors came on Sunday [two days after the graduation] and I saw firsthand the excellent quality of leadership," Draper said.

"As God continues to work through the new churches and leaders in that area, I believe we will see thousands more come to Christ and hundreds more churches started," Draper said.



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BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Band dumps A & F

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A popular Christian rock band whose partnership with Abercrombie & Fitch caused consternation among conservative family values groups has asked the clothing retailer to end their relationship. Relient K, a Christian rock band promoted by Gotee Records, has asked the controversial retail store to pull their music from in-store music videos as well as the Abercrombie & Fitch website, according to Gotee President Joey Elwood. Elwood told AgapePress that company officials have not yet decided if they will be able to remove Relient K's music from its stores. As of Nov. 5, the music was prominently displayed on the company's web pages. Billed as a "first-ever exclusive partnership with a band," Abercrombie & Fitch launched a massive multimedia campaign with Relient K on Nov. 2. Abercrombie & Fitch is known for its controversial advertising campaigns and clothing catalogs that feature barely clad models in suggestive poses. The apparel retailer recently announced it canceled the holiday version of its catalog because company executives deemed the content and tone inappropriate in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The catalog will resume publication in January. Elwood said the culture of the clothing retailer, referring to pornographic images in the Abercrombie & Fitch catalog, is "not something we condone." "I felt like the line we were drawing was consistent with what we had been doing for years, and that we were entering into a domain that we couldn't control — a secular domain — in order to offer a choice to consumers," Elwood said.

Looking back

10 years ago

Trustees of Criswell College in Dallas meet and reinstate Paige Patterson as president of the 355-student Bible college, after 25 of the 30 school regents resigned Nov. 1 and 80% of the student body threatened to leave over the controversial departure of Patterson.

20 years ago

Ethel Church, Attala Association, increases its mission giving over 500% during the last four years. This year, the church reports giving 26.4% of its gross receipts to Southern Baptist missions.

50 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention board creates a new post, that of Director of Evangelism. C.E. Wilbanks, pastor of First Church, Vivian, La., is elected the first director of this office.

As a general rule Baptist churches conclude their worship services with what normally is called the invitation. It is a climactic moment in the service where, after the Gospel has been presented and we have sung and expressed praise to God, there is a time period to respond.

Christians may feel an urgency and a need to respond to some prompting of God in their hearts. They may have gotten away from the Lord and want to return. They may have tragically failed the Lord and feel an urgency to return to him. For some, they may just feel a burden of caring and praying for others.

As God directs during invitation time, we need to respond for there are unbelievers who are struggling with yielding to God also. If we are unwilling to say, "Lord, I will respond to your call," how could we ever expect people who do not know Jesus as Lord to respond?

Two incidents that have happened over the past year have reminded me and demonstrated anew to me the need for Christians to simply do what God has asked them to do. Call upon him in prayer and he will respond.

I was preaching at a church during the closing night of a revival. It had been a good week and souls had been saved; yet, there was still more that God wanted to do.

There was a man at the services all week who had never been saved. He was in his 60s. He had been more faithful than some of the members, but he was not a Christian. I will never forget that night.

When the invitation began this man's son came forward and simply knelt there at the front, broken-hearted and burdened about something. Kneeling and praying, he prayed and prayed as the invitation continued.

While he prayed, he did not know that his father had walked down the aisle behind him. The man at the altar (a deacon) continued to pray as the pastor led this precious man to Jesus.

After this man's father invited Jesus into his heart and was joyously saved, the pastor went over to the deacon, who was still kneeling and praying, and he whispered in his ear, "I want you to know that your dad just accepted Christ."

Can you imagine the joy that filled this man's heart? The delight in his heart spread all over his face and all over the congregation. Would God have saved his dad that night had he not come? I don't know.

Would his dad have walked down the aisle to give his heart

to Christ if his son had not come earlier and prayed at the altar? I do not know.

What I do know is that when Christians get concerned, it opens the flood gates of God's blessings in ways that can never be experienced when we are untouched and unconcerned.

No wonder the Psalmist said, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seeds, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him."

Another incident happened on a Sunday morning as I was preaching at one of our churches. The invitation time came and a number of decisions were made (rededications and other commitments).

A mother was standing in the congregation and her son was standing beside her. During the invitation, I had paused for a time of prayer and said that we would only sing one more verse. This mother prayed and said, "Lord, if there is one person that needs you here today, give them the courage to step out and say yes to you on this last stanza."

What she did not know was the stirring of Christ that was taking place in her son's heart, and additionally what she did not know was that this young man had stepped out, walked down the aisle, and told one of the ministers, "I want to invite Jesus into my heart today." The prayer she was praying was for

her own son and she didn't realize it. That Sunday morning he was saved and the mom was thrilled.

There is an incredible and undeniable linkage between the genuine spiritual care on the part of God's people that results and erupts in the outpouring of grace that saves.

What can you do to make the invitation at your church more significant, more meaningful, positive, and productive? You can...

1. **Pray** for others and you can pray asking God if there is something that he wants to do in you and through you. If so, you need to become the answer to your own prayer and do what God has placed on your heart. If your prayer is only something like, "Dear God, help this invitation to be over so we can get out of here soon," well, that prayer will probably be answered too and you can just go on your way.

2. **Participate** in and sing the invitation, or where it's called for, intensely enter into a time of prayer. Participate! Do you think for a moment that your demeanor and body language doesn't have an impact on people around you who may be struggling with a decision? It absolutely does! It is possible for you to show your disinterest, even your disgust, and people who are weighing spiritual decisions are affected by your influence.

In the grand scheme of life,

invitations do not take up much of our time, but I dare say there are millions who are going to be in Heaven who have come to those meaningful, life-changing moments and said "yes" to Jesus. You can be a part of their decision making!

3. **Encourage** your pastor. In the decades that I have been preaching, I have had very few people come to me to encourage me to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading during the invitation time, however long it might take.

While there have been very few that have ever expressed that kind of concern and encouragement, I still remember them. I am fairly confident that there were those who felt the same way who never said anything, but I do remember the ones who did. At that moment during the service, I am not the judge of everyone's heart, but I wonder sometimes if there is not a greater passion, a driving concern just to get out of church, that far exceeds our passion to see people come to Christ.

If you are one of those whose heart beats with the care of your pastor who proclaims the Word of God, just let him know that you love and appreciate his care during the invitation. He is not likely to abuse it, because there will always be plenty of folks telling him to cut it short.

The invitation, you see, is not from just the pastor or the church, but it is a call from God. It is because people are hearing from and doing business with God that we spend those moments. So let's join together in making those special little moments that only come a few times each week in public and corporate worship, and make the invitation a moment to be remembered — a moment with eternal memories!

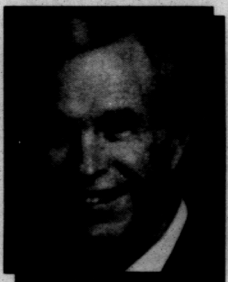
J.M. Wood dies at age 72

J. M. Wood, 72, a retired minister of music, died Nov. 5 at Hospice Ministries, Inc., Ridgeland. Funeral services were held Nov. 7 at Broadmoor Church, Madison, with burial services in Parkway Memorial Cemetery, Ridgeland. Wood was born in Manitou, Okla. He was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, attended Southwestern Seminary, and graduated from North Texas State University.

Wood served as minister of music at Broadmoor Church, Jackson (now located in Madison), and at First Church, Brandon. He also served churches in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Survivors include wife Gail Richardson Wood; son, Gary Don Wood of Atlanta, Ga.; and Rita Lynn Sweatt of Amory; grandsons, Garrett and Spencer Wood; granddaughters, Megan, Molly, and Shelby Sweatt. Three brothers and one sister preceded him in death.

Memorials may be made to the J. M. Wood Church Music Scholarship Fund established by First Church, Brandon. Contributions can be made to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.



Wood

Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



Ministers' wives gather in Jackson



Shirley Futral (left) talks with Holly Bird (second from left) as Tommye Lynn Porter (second from right) and Juanita Fermin talk during a break at the 2001 Ministers' Wives Conference October 29 at First Church, Jackson. Futral, wife of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Director-Treasurer Jim Futral, and Porter, wife of Mississippi Baptist Action Commission Executive Director Jimmy Porter, were the featured speakers at the conference. Bird is the wife of Billy Bird, pastor of Salem Church, Raymond. Fermin is the wife of Nathan Fermin, pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Osyka. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

SWBTS prof serves as firefighter, chaplain

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Faculty members at Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) in Ft. Worth wear many hats, but few wear one hat that John Babler wears.

For six years Babler has served as associate professor of social work and ministry-based evangelism at Southwestern, but for the last two years he has proudly worn the hat of a firefighter.

Babler has seen the devastation of being on both sides of the ladder. On the one hand, he remembers the death of a good friend and volunteer firefighter, Brian Collins, who died tragically with two other firefighters on Feb. 15, 1999, while attempting to extinguish a fire at Precious Faith Temple in Lake Worth, Texas.

"I never started out to wear the hat of a firefighter, until after the tragic loss of the three firefighters in 1999," Babler said. Collins had taught one of Babler's daughters in Sunday School and another daughter in choir at Birchman Church in Fort Worth.

Babler also wears the hat of evangelist and minister. Serving at Birchman Church as chairman of the missions committee and as a seminary professor, he has had ample opportunity to do ministry.

After seeing the faces of the firefighters at the deadly church fire, he knew he needed to do something.

That is when, Babler said, "God kindled an interest in my heart as a fire chaplain."

"I explored the possibilities with the fire chief of the volunteer fire department in Edgecliff Village," Babler said. "Options were given to me of being just a chaplain or being a firefighter/chaplain. I felt for credibility [with the firefighters, it was important] to come in as firefighter and chaplain and to train with the guys."

Over the past two years Babler has worked up to the rank of lieutenant, even serving as an incident commander at a recent train derailment. More importantly he has developed relationships with the firefighters in his department.

"There is a close-knit brotherhood," Babler said. "That is one reason I wanted to be a firefighter and be a fire chaplain — so I am on their turf, unlike other evangelistic programs I have been in."

As a firefighter, Babler said he is able to be at the heart of the crisis at the time the need arises.

"I also try to serve the community," Babler said, recounting a time he was on an engine that responded to a trauma call. "The resident we responded to had a heart attack and died. I then changed hats, put my chaplaincy hat on, and went with them to the hospital."

"I was able to tell the family he had the best care possible, and there was not the, 'Gosh it took 10 minutes for the crew to get there,' because we were on scene."

Babler and 158 fire chaplains and others thinking of becoming chaplains from across the United States and Canada participated in the Federation of Fire Chaplains annual conference Oct. 20-25 in Fort Worth.

They honored firefighters who died in the past year at a memorial service at Birchman Church on Oct. 23.

Typically 100-120 firefighters die in the line of duty each year, Babler said. However this year on Sept. 11, three times that number were killed in a matter of minutes in New York City.

"Since Sept. 11," Babler said, "I am emphasizing more of the chaplain part of

firefighting." He has started weekly Bible studies with his fellow firefighters and had six men at the first meeting.

"I was very pleased," he said. "One of the guys is going to get married in the spring, and I will have the privilege of performing the service."

Babler said he wishes more seminary students would become involved as fire chaplains, "but the problem is the tight-knit

community of firefighters. To be a chaplain with the police or fire department, a student will need to gain credibility and respect with the firefighters."

"The great thing about our department is it is close to the seminary, and a student could come on and be a part of the department," Babler commented. "Then when they leave seminary they will have experience in working in and with firefighters."

Being a chaplain is more than being there, the seminary professor reflected. It is connecting with the people who are in need of ministry. "It is like any ministry — God called me to this and he receives the glory."



ON FRONT LINE — John Babler, associate professor of social work and ministry-based evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, poses in front of Birchman Church in Fort Worth Oct. 23. Babler spoke at a memorial service honoring firefighters who have died in the line of duty in the past year. (BP photo by Richard McCormack)

Ground Zero escort finds life has changed forever

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — After serving as chaplain at Ground Zero in New York City, the site of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the twin World Trade Center towers, images remain so strong in the mind of seminary professor Endel Lee that he says the way he approaches ministry has been forever changed.

"I've been changed," said the New Orleans Seminary Leavell College professor of preaching and pastoral work. With his head hung and tears in his eyes, he searched for words to explain, unable to find any adequate.

"I don't know what all that means now," he offered, "just that things in my life will never be the same."

Lee, who teaches a class on Pastoral Care through Life Crises, ministered for 10 days in New York City with other Navy chaplains with Coast Guard assignments who, in addition to other projects, accompanied family members on the ferries to ground zero to give husbands, wives, parents, and older children opportunity to pay their last respects to deceased loved ones.

"We tried to establish relationships with the family members on the ferry ride to lower Manhattan," said Lee, who has served nearly 20 years in the military reserves, the last eight as a Navy chaplain.

The 15-minute trips to the site, though somber, felt like

normal ferry rides, he said, because the outer facades of the buildings along the harbor were still intact.

Once docked, he and other chaplains escorted the groups of 50 people past the tall buildings. With each step, tension mounted and the silence grew, Lee said.

When the family members finally turned the corner to see the panoramic view of the destruction at ground zero, "a

tremendous dose of reality met them," he said.

Seeing the site was particularly meaningful for those who were in denial that their loved ones were gone, he said.

After an "extremely heart-gripping time" there, the groups got back onboard the ferries to return to mid-Manhattan.

When the boat pulled away from the pier, family members often began crying on each oth-

ers' shoulders or talking more about what they had seen, Lee said. "We [the chaplains] would try to be present there with them and offer whatever we could."

Some of the family members, he learned, had worked at the World Trade Center for at least 15 years. One father, meanwhile, had worked there only two months. Another family's loved one had flown in for a meeting just that day, Lee recounted.

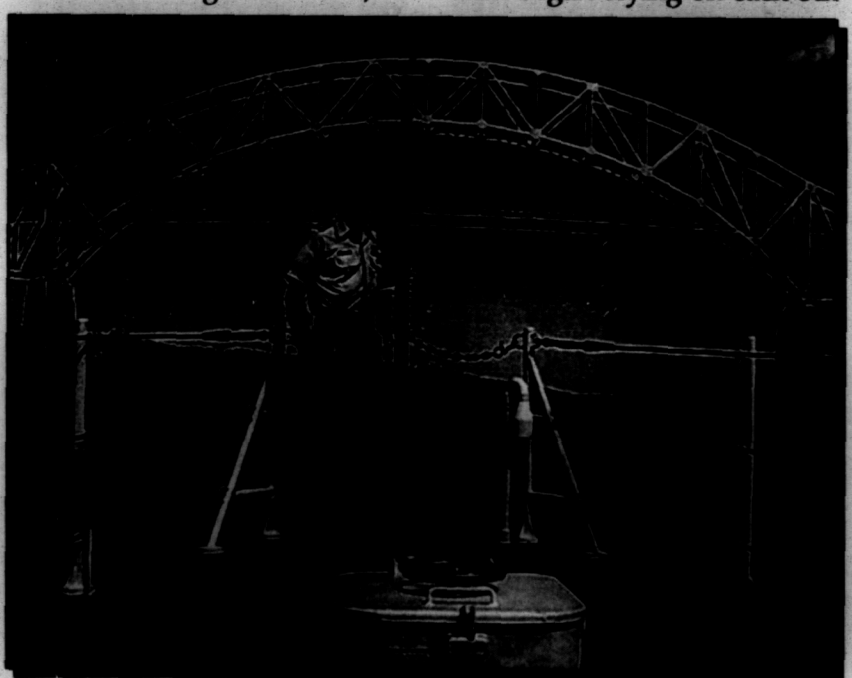
Though he spent only about 45 minutes with each group, he said he will never forget the grieving individuals.

While acknowledging that he felt the Lord had prepared him beforehand for the task, Lee said the scene was much different than the times he had ministered to victims of natural disasters.

Though sharing Christ with people has been of utmost concern to him, he conceded that Christians must "up" their preparation for the spiritual battles yet to come.

"We've been around crises before but not with this kind of intensity, not in this generation, and not in our own national borders," he said.

As he watched family members and overwhelmed volunteers react to the loss, he awakened to his "need to reprioritize his life," and "to not let mediocrity and bureaucracy get in the way of kingdom ministry."



HELPING THE BEREAVED — U.S. Navy Chaplain Endel Lee, professor of preaching and pastoral work at New Orleans Seminary's Leavell College, pictured on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Chinook in a prior mission, joined other chaplains in New York City to escort husbands, wives, parents, and older children to ground zero to pay their last respects to deceased loved ones. (BP photo)

Minute of silence Ok'd in Virginia

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Virginia law requiring public schools to observe a minute of silence each day will remain in effect after the U.S. Supreme Court announced it will not review a lower-court decision in the case.

The high court's Oct. 29 action permitted a July opinion of the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals to stand which allows students to pray during the minute of silence.

The law, enacted last year, mandates schools establish a minute each day in which students may "meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede" other students.

Eight families, with the support of the ACLU, filed suit against the state.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Ground breaking at Kilmichael Church, Kilmichael

Kilmichael Church, Kilmichael, held a ground-breaking ceremony on Sept. 23 for its new fellowship hall and multi-purpose building. Pictured is David Bishop, pastor; Charles Austin, chairman of the building committee; and deacons and members of the building committee.

Highland Church, Meridian, will present its 17th annual Singing Christmas Tree, Dec. 6-9. The times are Thursday and Friday, 7 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. For additional information, call the church at (601) 482-0191.

Goodyear Church, Picayune, will dedicate its new church building relocated to 2710 Hwy. 43 S. on Dec. 16. Lunch will be served at noon. Special guest will be the Bibletones and the Gann Brothers from Florida. Arlis F. Grice is pastor.

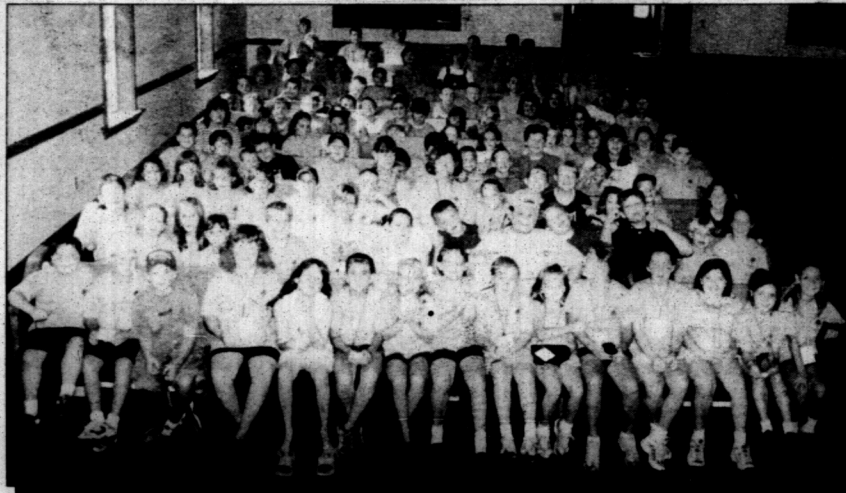
The women's ministry of **First Church, Grenada**, will be hosting their 4th annual Women's Conference on Jan. 18 and 19. The keynote speaker will be Dee Brestin, author of *Falling in Love with Jesus*. For additional information, call the church office at (662) 226-3661.



Brestin

A candlelight vigil for the unborn will be held on Jan. 19, from 6-7 p.m. at the State Capitol Building in Jackson. For additional information, call Pat Cartrette at (601) 956-8636.

Wesson Church, Wesson, is offering a martial arts after school program, Monday-Thursday. For additional information, contact David Higgs at (601) 643-2397.



Children's retreat at Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, hosted its first children's retreat (pictured) on Sept. 21 and 22 with 94 in attendance. The retreat began Friday afternoon with games, Bible study, and a bonfire. John Yates, ventriloquist, provided the entertainment.

Members of the Carroll-Montgomery Association (pictured) recently traveled to Spring Garden Church, Rome, Ga., to aid in building a new church. They also held backyard Bible clubs at Swan Lake Mobile Home Park.



Mission team from Carroll-Montgomery Association



Baptist Men of Flowood Church, Brandon

The Baptist Men's group of **Flowood Church, Brandon**, (pictured) traveled to La Junta, Colorado, to work with New Hope Church. While there the men helped with various renovation projects. Pictured (from left, front row) are Chad Stuart, Ricky Gray, Eddie Cook; (back row) David Westerfield, Q. E. Hinton, Jack Trimm, Allen Stuart, Myron Sistrunk, Max Mitchell, Bobby Gene Moore, Beecher King, Jerry Turner, and Bill Dunigan. Ricky Gray is pastor.

Big Level Church, Wiggins, held dedication services on Oct. 28 for its recently completed worship center and education space. David Grisham, former pastor, was the speaker for the first service. Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, preached at the 11 a.m. service. Tommy Mitchell, missions director of Gulf Coast Association, preached at the 2:30 p.m. service. David Perry is pastor.

Revival dates

First, Stonewall: Nov. 17-20; Saturday, fellowship meal, 6 p.m. and Stonewall Quartet, 7 p.m.; Sunday-Tuesday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. John Merck, evangelist; Kevin Ivy, music; Mike Powell, pastor.

Williamsburg, Collins: Nov. 25-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bill Nobles, Hattiesburg, evangelist; James Sumrall, Waynesboro, music; Dennis Campbell, pastor.

Revival results

Harrisburg, Tupelo: Oct. 14-17; 36 professions of faith; 16 by letter; Jerry Pipes, Atlanta, Ga., evangelist; Mickey Henderson, Lubbock, Texas, music; Forrest Sheffield, pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Laurie Bevell, a Mississippi College junior social work major from Senatobia, is the recipient of the Ernest Pinson

Scholarship awarded annually by the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Bevell is preparing for ministry in missions. Pictured with Bevell (left) is Steve Wilson, president of the Board of Ministerial Education.



Bevell and Wilson

The Mississippi College Naturals will be hosting a Christmas dinner show Nov. 29 and 30 in the B.C. Rogers Grand Hall. The time for the event is 6:30 each evening. Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased by calling (601) 925-3440. Deadline for reservation is Nov. 26.

Women's Missionary Union of Good Hope Church, Hickory, is sponsoring The Kingdom Praying Seminar on Dec. 1 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This seminar led by Kevin Meador, president of the Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc., will focus on training and equipping believers to pray for the lost and the spreading of the gospel. Register by noon on Nov. 29 in order to reserve a meal. For additional information or to register for the seminar, call (601) 635-2180.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 N-5

November 15, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Interfaith Evangelism WORD OF FAITH CONFERENCE

Led by Cky Carrigan, NAMB
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2001
Baptist Building Skyroom

Deadline for registration, November 20
Lunch provided

For more information, contact the Evangelism Department,
MBCB, 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3278.

BAPTIST HYMNALS NEEDED FOR AFRICAN SEMINARY

The only seminary in Africa offering a graduate degree in church music is in Ogbomosho, Nigeria. Currently, most African church choirs sing only the melody of hymns from memory, for they have only the words without music.

Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Department consultant, after teaching a course at this seminary, has a burden to provide our fellow Baptist musicians in Africa with 5,000 copies of the 1991 Baptist Hymnal. Their choirs could then proclaim the theology of our Baptist faith in beautiful four-part harmony! **As of August, 3,000 hymnals have been given and sent.**

You can help with a financial gift. One hymnal is \$5. A box of 20 is \$100. If you or your church group would like to participate in this ministry, please call Jimmy McCaleb at 601-292-3273, 1-800-748-1651 or

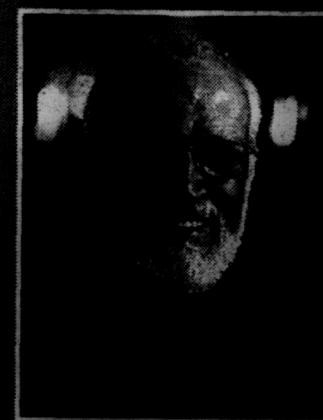
E-mail him at jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Checks may be made out to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mailed to:

Jimmy McCaleb
MBCB
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

2002 Baptist Doctrine Study Preview - Holiness

- Main Street Baptist Church
Hattiesburg
January 28, 2002
- McLaurin Heights Baptist Church
Pearl
January 29, 2002
- First Baptist Church
Grenada
January 31, 2002



Preregistration is requested. The cost is \$10, which includes brunch and a copy of this year's doctrinal study book, *Called to be Holy*, by Rick Melick.



All
previews
are from
9 a.m.-noon

For more information, contact the Discipleship Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3278.

Young Musicians' Festival

April 6, 2002

Mississippi College Coliseum, Clinton
Guest Clinician, Susan Messer

Music: Order the winter *Young Musician's Magazine* from the dated literature order form.

Memorize: "God So Loved the World"
"Sing to the Lord"
"The Good Shepherd"



Susan Messer
Atlanta, Ga.

Two additional anthems will be available from the Church Music Dept. Watch for this information in the Young Musician's brochure to be mailed in November 2001.

Contact the Church Music Department, 1-800-748-1651, x 271, or in Jackson, 601-292-3271, or Sarah Talley for other information.

THE SUIT PROJECT



What is it?

For over 37 years Baptists in Mississippi have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.

What can you do?

Men's Ministries groups, individuals, churches, etc., can send their gifts payable to:
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Attention: Men's Ministry Department
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Cost: \$130 per suit - Please designate on your check: Suit Project

NEW FEATURE

This year, as funds are available, we hope to send clothing gift certificates for the wives.

*Sponsored by the Men's Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
For more information please call 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 601-292-3334.*

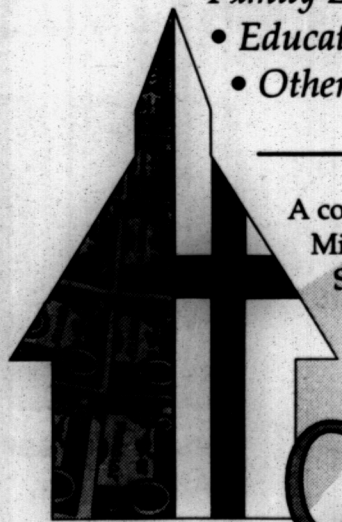
Mississippi Baptists say "Merry Christmas" to pastors in the Pennsylvania/South Jersey and the New York Conventions

We can help you raise money for your building program!

Challenge to Build has a 30-year history of assisting Mississippi Baptist churches.

Your church CAN reach its goal:

- Debt Retirement
- New Worship Center
- Family Life Center
- Educational Buildings
- Other Projects



A cost-shared program offered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Stewardship Department
Contact Jerry Mixon, Stewardship Director, 601-292-3347 or 1-800-748-1651 ext. 347

Challenge to Build

Church Music Conference

February 7-8, 2002

FBC, McComb

with Milburn Price, Stanford University

For more information contact the Church Music Dept., MBCB, 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3267.

Mississippi Baptists 2002 Christian Education Clinic

Locations

Highland BC, Meridian
February 16

FBC, Jackson
March 2

- Please make your plans to attend your choice of locations in 2002. A detailed brochure will be mailed later this fall.
- Four hours of staff development offered for Mother's Day Out, Kindergarten, After school Care and Day Care teachers (accredited by Health Department)
- Four-tenths of a continuing education unit offered for Christian and private school teachers and administrators (accredited by Miss. Private School Association)
- Home school educators will profit from educationally sound teaching suggestions from a Christian perspective.

For more info call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept., 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 1-601-292-3284.

December 27-28 • Mississippi College, Clinton
A.E. Wood Coliseum

Preregistration
deadline
December 14

Registration begins at noon
First session starts at 2 p.m.
Concludes Friday at 3:30 p.m.



Thomas Young



John Avant



Tim Gels



David DeLoach



David DeLoach



Christian Performing Arts Festival

April 5-6, 2002

Country Woods Baptist Church, Clinton
and 125 minutes of music and more
in service and worship sessions

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- Directing (beginners and advanced)
- Illusions
- Choreography
- Technical Support

Clowning

- Clowning (beginners and advanced)
- Leading a Clown Troop
- Balloon Sculpting
- Clowning Skills

Puppets

- Puppetry (beginners and advanced)
- Leading a Puppet Team (beginners and advanced)

Church Recreation

- Fun and Games
- New Ideas
- Creative and Fun Classes in the Areas of Socials, Senior Adults, Children and General Recreation

Youth Ministry

- Training Youth to be Leaders
- Training for Youth Mission Trips
- Spring Training...Tips for Building Better Players and Stronger Teams
led by Gary Permenter

For more information, please contact the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department

601-968-3888 or 1-800-748-1651

FEBRUARY 12, 2002
9 A.M. - NOON

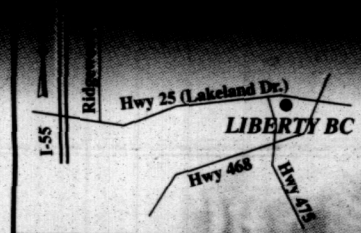


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November 16-December 6, 2001

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

PRAYING THROUGH THE STRUGGLE TO LET GO - The human longing: "Let this cup pass." The final relinquishment: "Not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:39-46)

Pray for the Ethiopian evangelists who visit among the Silti people group. Ask God to open the spiritual eyes of those with whom they talk. Ask that the people will become dissatisfied with their rituals and will want to truly know their creator and loving father.

Pray that Bibles will be made available for millions of Chinese Christians, and for the multitudes who still have not heard the Word of God. Fewer Bibles are being printed this year in China than in recent years. Pray for spiritual purity in the leadership of the church in China.

For: (1) Season of Prayer for International Missions (WMU Emphasis); (2) All who are sharing the gospel on university campuses in China. Intercede for their protection, wisdom, discernment and boldness. Pray that God will continue to draw students to Himself.

Andy DeGuire is a collegiate minister starting Baptist Campus Ministries on two main state college campuses with a combined student body of 40,000 and no Southern Baptist work. Pray for God to grant him favor among the administration. Also pray for his unsaved parents.

Is praying for the leaders of the nation a vital concern of your prayer life? Prayer should not focus only on yourself and those you love. Commit yourself to pray for the leadership of our nation. Ask God to develop and bring righteous leaders to the forefront in all areas.

Missionary Connie Robbins requests prayer for wisdom in choosing Russians to be members of the Kharkov media research team. This team will conduct surveys and interviews about media used in the city to better incorporate media in ministry.

Liaoning province in China has 35 "labor reform" camps where prisoners live under harsh conditions. Pray about the spirits of oppression and hopelessness in these prisons.

In Malawi, Africa, a small young church in a Ngoni village is struggling against pressure from unbelieving family and friends to return to traditional religious ways. Pray that the Christian leadership will redouble their efforts to teach them the basic Bible truths of following Christ.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee meeting; Baptist Building, 9 a.m.; (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting; Baptist Building; 10:00 a.m.

Pray for the current personnel request for someone to evangelize the almost 1 million Japanese who live in Sao Paulo. It is the largest population of Japanese outside of Japan, and many speak little or no Portuguese. Someone is needed who can already speak Japanese.

Thomas Smith is a military chaplain in Ft. Smith, Ark. Pray for him and his wife, Margaret, as they minister to the Air National Guard. Pray for them to have quality time with those they serve. Pray that God will create a hunger for His Word in their hearts.

For: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS; (2) Pray for Prime Minister Saad al-Abdallah al-Salim Al-Salim of Kuwait (between Iraq and Saudi Arabia).

Thanksgiving Day - Pray that this will truly be a day of thanksgiving to God for drawing many people to Christ after the terrorist attack on America Sept. 11. Thank Him for His protection against further attacks. Pray that our nation will truly be known as a Christian country.

Religious education is systematically taught throughout Scotland's public school system. An MK (missionary kid) stated that Jesus' name was never mentioned in the schools' teaching on Christianity. Pray for Christian parents who began a Bible club this fall at a primary school.

A worker in a Last Frontier nation writes: "In light of the current events in the U.S., you may be concerned for our safety, living among 50% Muslims. Rather than causing a rift, this incident has brought us closer together. Pray that God will glorify Himself and strengthen our friendships with those that need Him."

Please pray for the 4.2 million people in the greater metropolitan area of Belo Horizonte, the third largest metropolitan area in Brazil. There are around 140 Baptist churches and 40 mission congregations in the metro area. Probably no more than 8% of the population are born again Christians.

A missionary serving on the Northern River Valleys Team of Chile asks that we pray for the Pioneer Girls club that she conducts with other women of the church. The group meets each week, with an average attendance of 20 girls. Over half of these girls have never attended any other church activity.

After coming to Christ, an elderly man from the Awadhi people of India, removed an idol from his home. In the past six months, 50 people have been baptized and a large house fellowship has begun in his home. There is persecution. Pray that these believers will stand firm in their faith.

In the Barabai community of Tanzania, a visitor may be invited into a home and offered some milk and food. If he accepts, he is no longer an enemy but a friend. Pray that as Jesus knocks at their doors, they will open their hearts and invite Him in and "dine" together as friends.

In a Last Frontier nation, Bible studies are being held in three areas of a major city. Pray for the participants' growth in learning about the Lord and how to live the Christian life every day, relying on the Lord to provide for their needs. Pray for the leaders of these Bible studies.

Begin now to pray that a radio announcer will go to work with a new Christian radio station which will broadcast to the Anyi of COTE D'IVOIRE AND GHANA. Construction was expected to begin in October or November.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

MBSO Retreat
January 11-12, 2002
Madison Central High School

For more information, contact the MBCB Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3267.

DECEMBER

4-86 Miss Katie R. Gray
Parents: Tony & Karen

6-88 Miss Marisa M. Womble
Parents: Freddie & Karen

13-78 Mr. T. Kyle White
Parents: Jerry & Glenda

14-85 Mr. Allen D. Lightsey
Parents: Timothy & Rebecca

20-85 Miss Kimberly D. Shearer
Parents: Kevin & Pamela

20-78 Mr. John A. Latham
Parents: Tony & Kathy

20-83 Miss Michelle S. Shearer
Parents: Kevin & Pamela

JANUARY

3-01 Miss Jessie M. Crocker
Parents: George & Ginger

5-93 Miss Meleah D. Peacock
Parents: Kevin & Brenda

15-92 Miss Molly Crocker
Parents: George & Ginger


21-97 Mr. Caleb E. Holyfield
Parents: Michael & Patricia

22-86 Mr. Benjamin Bailey
Parents: Alvin & Elizabeth

26-89 Miss Hannah Ray
Parents: Michael & Linda

Please take a moment to drop a birthday greeting and word of encouragement to our Missionary Kids!
For security, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:

Child's name and parent's name
International Mission Board
P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230-8767



NAMES IN THE NEWS



Deacon ordination services at Society Hill Church, Oakvale

Deacon ordination services were held Sept. 16 at Society Hill Church, Oakvale, for Alan King, Carlos Langston, and Damon Roberts. Pictured (from left) are Tommy Broom, who has accepted the call as pastor to Society Hill Church; King; Langston; Roberts; and L.C. Anthony, interim pastor.

Wayside Church, Vicksburg, held deacon ordination service on Aug. 26 for Bob Harris and Roger Holdiness. Pictured (from left) are Harris; Larry W. Haggard, pastor; and Holdiness.

First Church, Terry, recently held a deacon ordination service for Claude Gholson and Joe Walker. Pictured (from left) are Gholson; John Pace, pastor; and Walker.

DeSoto Church, Shubuta, commissioned Robbie and Dawn Early to the ministry of music evangelism. They are available for supply, revivals, concerts, and can be reached through the church at (601) 776-6050. Jim Smith is pastor. Pictured (from left) are Smith, Robbie and Dawn Early.



Gholson, Pace, and Walker



Smith and The Earlys



Harris, Haggard, and Holdiness

Jimmy and Nancy Larson of Hurley Church, Hurley, returned home on Aug. 19 after an 85-day mission trip to Alaska. They helped build the Blue Water Christian Youth Camp, a non-denominational camp, on Prince of Wales Island. A pavilion and boardwalk were previously constructed.



The Larsons

Homecoming

Rena Lara, Rena Lara: Nov. 18; 11 a.m., noon meal in fellowship hall, and 1:15 p.m. singing; Bill Choate, former pastor, guest speaker; Floyd M. Cooper, pastor.

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federal program.

Maudie Gardner was recognized on Sept. 30 for her service as church clerk for 35 years at First Church, Magnolia. Pictured with Gardner (right) is Barry Ward, pastor.



Ward and Gardner

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Walley, Revette, and Moore

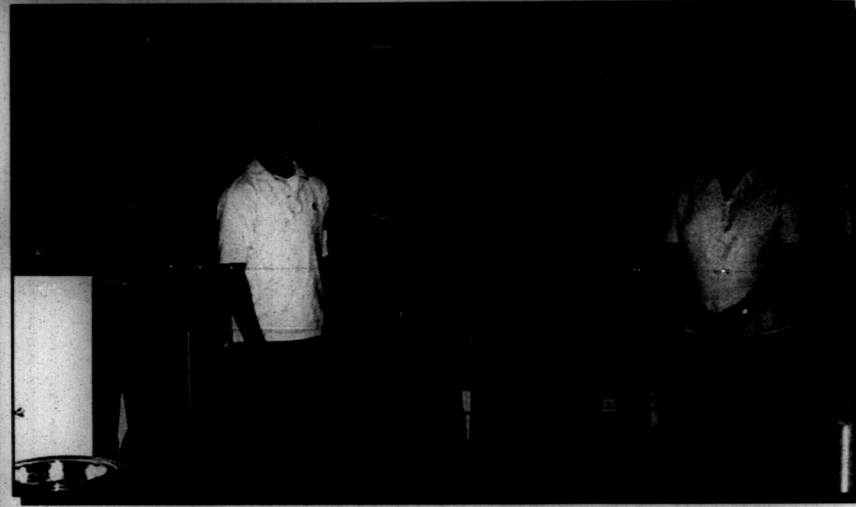
First Church, Buckatunna, ordained Ricky Revette to the ministry on Sept. 30. Douglas Moore, pastor, gave the charge to the church. DeJuan Walley, pastor, First Church, Waynesboro, gave the charge to the candidate. Revette has been called to pastor Spring Bank Church, Chatom, Ala. Pictured (from left) are Walley, Revette, and Moore.

David Martileno was ordained on Oct. 7 as deacon at Calvary Church, Pascagoula. Pictured (from left) are Martileno and Clint Miller, pastor.



Martileno and Miller

Josh Butrick, missionary to Wales, will return home on Dec. 3. He is the son of Terry and Diane Butrick and a member of Tangipahoa Church, Summit.



Members of New Hope Church, Foxworth



Butrick

New Hope Church, Foxworth, recently recognized members with perfect attendance in Sunday School. Pictured (from left) with consecutive years of perfect attendance are B. B. Stringer, 46; Lynn McKenzie, 1; Mitch Ratliff, 10; Jimmy Thomas, 32; Chase Clark, 5; Nancy Thomas, 18; Sherrill Magee, 20; Karla Ratliff, 10; Bonnie Pittman, 11; Carley Lowe, 1; Donna Ratliff, 20; and Lori Lowe, 1. Not pictured is Vicky Berry, 1.

LifeWay sets grand opening in Jackson

The LifeWay Christian Store in Jackson has moved a few yards west of its present location to more spacious quarters, and a grand opening is planned for November 17.

The store remains in the Ridgewood Court Shopping Center off County Line Road in north Jackson, but is now located in the old Campo Electronics building between the Bank, Bank, and Bank.



GAs of North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, participated in the ageless GA mother/daughter overnight retreat at Camp Garaywa, Clinton, on Oct. 5-6.



The RAs and GAs of North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, held a bike-a-thon on Sept. 22. They rode their bikes for 10 miles to raise money for missions.

Newest MBCB television spot begins airing soon

By Tim Nicholas
Staff writer

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) has produced a television spot as a Christian witness.

"In light of recent world events, we desired to communicate a message of hope," said Ian Richardson, director of the MBCB Communication Services, which developed the spot.

"Our goal is that this will touch the lives of people in our communities with the message of God's love and faithfulness," said Richardson.

The 30-second spot, distributed to 10 television stations throughout Mississippi, depicts a close-up of the back of a \$20 bill showing the words, "In God We Trust." Words at the bottom of the screen say, "We see it."

Then the scene cuts to show children reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

While the children recite, across the bottom of the screen are the words: "We say it."

Then the words, "It's time to live it," are shown and the viewer sees several scenes of Christians performing ministry tasks taken from Vessels, the MBCB video magazine.

The scenes include a man praying to become a Christian, a hospital visit, the building of a church, and the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force serving hurricane victims.

Toward the end the narrator says, "There is a light in this dark world. That light is Jesus."

The spot closes with the MBCB logo depicting a stylized cross and the words "Mississippi Baptists."

The stations showing the spot include Jackson's WAPT 16; WDBD 40; WJTV 12; and WLBT 3; Tupelo/Columbus WTV 9; Biloxi's WLOX 13; Greenville/Greenwood's

WABG 6; Columbus' WCBI 4; Meridian's WTOK 11; and Hattiesburg/Laurel's WDAM 7.

The spots are available for local church use. For more information, contact

Richardson at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3290 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 290. E-mail: irichardson@mbcb.org.

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Trade Center cross to serve as memorial

NEW YORK CITY (BP) — The cross has been saved — the cross, that is, of steel beams uncovered as workers in New York cleared away debris at the World Trade Center.

Recovery worker Frank Silecchia, who has championed the cross' preservation, told Baptist Press Nov. 6 the cross has been designated as a memorial by the city of New York.

The cross has been moved to the front of the World Financial Center's Building Six on West Street, Silecchia said, noting that its final location has not yet been determined.

The cross is "a symbol of faith" commemorating those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, Silecchia said.

Silecchia noticed the two steel beams in the perfect shape of a cross as debris was being removed from a fallen crosswalk that connected the World Trade Center's North Tower to Building Three two days after the disaster.

The beams, at least six feet high and four feet wide, were bolted together as part of the original structure. The edges of the beams bear no markings of being cut or welded to make the shape of a cross.

The most heart-wrenching discovery was that a silver object melted onto the cross' left side was the remains of a firefighter's jacket who died in the blast.

Firefighters say the fire-resis-

tant jacket turned silver and took on the look and consistency of metal when it encountered extreme heat and fire. Now, it is wrapped around the left arm of the cross.

The discovery of the two beams, and of several smaller crosses amid the rubble, led Silecchia on a campaign to save the cross from demolition, petitioning Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to designate it as a memorial to Sept. 11's victims.

"For the terrorists, terror is their faith. For us, God is our faith," said Silecchia, a New Jersey man who is quick to give a Christian witness. "Who's going to win? God is. He's going to have the last word, and he did here," he said of the cross pulled from the rubble.



FROM RUBBLE TO MEMORIAL — Two beams in the shape of a cross, at least six feet high and four feet wide, will become a memorial to the victims of Sept. 11's terrorist attacks. (Photo by Frank Silecchia, transmitted to Baptist Press by Dave Crome of WDAF-TV, Dallas)

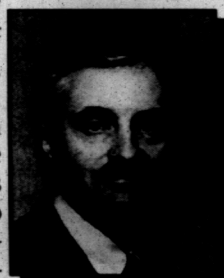
STAFF CHANGES

Harmony Church, Louisville, has called **Whit Lewis** as minister of youth, effective Oct. 10. A native of Kosciusko, Lewis is a student at Mississippi College and plans to graduate in December. His previous place of service was First Church, Kosciusko.

East Louisville, Louisville, has called **Keith Dendy** as pastor effective Oct. 14. Dendy received his education at Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as minister of music at Meadowview Church, Golden Triangle Association.

Douglas R. Broome was installed Sept. 30, as the 30th pastor in the 157 year history of

First Church, Yazoo City. Taking part in the service were members of the Yazoo City congregation and members of Calvary Church of Waynesboro where Broome served as pastor for the past 15 years. He is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.



Broome

First Church, Holly Springs, has called **David Webb** as minister of education and youth, effective July 22. Webb is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Newton.

David Shofner, a graduate of Mississippi College, has retired from the pastorate and is living in Milton, Fla. Shofner served churches in Mississippi and as a missionary in Honduras.



Shofner

He is now available for revivals, pulpit supply, interim service, and can be contacted at (850) 981-1996.

First Church, Summit, has called **Craig Richardson** as associate pastor for youth/education, effective June 10. A native of Tupelo, Richardson received his education at Itawamba Community College, Delta State University, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Ecu Church, Ecu.

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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a full-time minister of education and youth. MRE degree required and some experience preferred. Church has new education facilities, family life center, and provides excellent benefits and salary package. Send resumes to Centreville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 326, Centreville, AL 35042.

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MT. PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH, Enid, Miss., is seeking a part-time youth/children director. Position includes Bible study and recreation. Send resume to Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, 605 Enid Teasdale Road, Enid, MS 38927 or email: csturgis38927@yahoo.com; or fax (662) 623-7910.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER for Rankin County Church; pay \$600-\$800 a month; P.O. Box 5467, Pearl, MS 39208. **CHURCH IN JACKSON** suburban area is prayerfully seeking a full-time youth minister. If you feel God may be leading you to this ministry opportunity, please send your resume and letter of interest to: Search Committee, Briar Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 129, Florence, MS 39073; or fax (601) 845-0991.

MONTICELLO BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a preschool/daycare director. Interested applicants must fill out an employment application which is available in the church office. Applicants must also submit a resume. Send resume to Monticello Baptist Church, P.O. Box 814, Monticello, MS 39654. For an employment application, call (601) 587-2114.

WANTED: YOUTH MINISTER. Mail or fax resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 487, Plantersville, MS 38862; (662) 842-3632.

CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

A motivation for missions

Acts 13:1-14:28

By Wayne Marshall

As I stood to preach before a small group of believers in a home church setting just outside of Kiev, Ukraine, so many emotions filled my mind and heart. These people really loved Jesus. They had so little materially, yet their worship had resounded with the joy of the Lord.

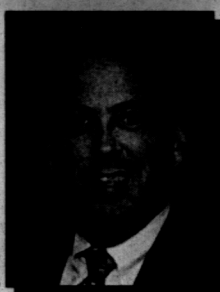
What a blessed day we had together. Since then about two hundred of our church family have ministered to people in nine different countries and four states. God wants to use all of us as we will see in today's lesson.

Notice God's call (13:1-3). When God gets ready to do his work, he usually chooses to surprise the church with it. Such was the case here. The moment was saturated with prayer.

The church was obviously ministering in the name of the Lord. We must be faithful in doing what we know before more will be given. The men were separated for a specific task. The text says it was unto work I've called them to. God's call is specific in both the content and the character necessary to fulfill it.

The mantle was shared as these men, already ministering, participated together in the missionary call of Paul and Barnabas to the Gentiles. The gospel was reaching new heights as a new culture was to be called unto salvation.

Notice man's commitment (13:4-6, 3-16). It is the choice of man to heed God's call. Paul and Barnabas willingly participated in the work. In doing so, they



Marshall

experienced the power of God even in the midst of warfare. Suffice to say that God's power was far above any enemy they would face.

As one reads verses thirteen through sixteen there comes a new awareness of the progression of the gospel. They preached everywhere they went and the Gospel spread rapidly. The commitment of any individual to God's call always involves these facts: participation, power, progression, and proclamation. We must learn a lesson in these truths as we share today.

Notice the Spirit's convincing (13:47-48). Paul and Barnabas traveled to many different cities on this first missionary journey. There would be many more miles and many more messages and even more "marks" left upon them from the grueling work they were doing. Yet in this passage two very important truths emerge; truths essential to every mission endeavor.

First, Paul recorded that they

were a light to the Gentiles. The Good News traveled to places where it had never been before. Jesus said that his followers were to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). Should we not make sure we learn our lesson from Paul and go? A second truth mentioned here could be described as "laughter."

Verse 48 states that the Gentiles "glorified God." Is it not amazing to our hearts and minds the beautiful way that the Gospel moves people from sighing under a load of sin to singing and praising the Lord who has radically changed their life? It's enough to make us laugh out loud.

Notice the church connection (14:26-28). When the work of that first journey ended, Paul and Barnabas returned home and reported to the church. The church family fulfilled their functions in the life of these missionaries.

One function was responsibility. The church had commissioned them to go. What more natural thing to do than to share

with those who were concerned about their activities? A second function was that of practice (v. 27). The church was the sounding board for truth, testimony, and triumph.

One final obligation of the church is noted in verse 28. It says that they stayed with the disciples. The church became the resting place for the missionaries. They were refreshed by the presence and the practice of other believers. It was a necessary part of the missionary message and method. It must be the hope and heart of the church to be crucially involved in the lives of missionaries. May we heed that call and until he comes, go!

(One brief challenge to you: In 2002 Longview Heights is preparing to send another two hundred volunteers into Peru, Jamaica, Africa, and Honduras. We will also send people to mission ministries in Mississippi, Tennessee, Arizona, and Montana. Pray for us!)

Marshall is pastor of Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Stand firm

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

By Dell Scoper

Paul spoke about the fate of unbelievers in last Sunday's text. In this lesson he addressed the future of believers.

In marked contrast with the dark themes of apostasy, judgement, and the Antichrist, Paul moved on to the bright prospects for those whom God had chosen and called with the basic exhortation for the believers in Thessalonica to stand firm.

Paul's gratitude — stand firm in God's salvation (2:12-15). Verses 13-14 have been said to form "a system of theology in miniature." Beginning with the eternal choice of God, Paul described the believers' salvation as worked out through the process of "sanctifying work of the Spirit" and completed in eternity, sharing Christ's glory.

Salvation as interpreted by

Paul was a large and comprehensive term, including justification, sanctification, and glorification. As Paul's theology developed, glory was not something added to salvation, but it explained it. The Christian life does not end with time, because its goal is eternity.

Therefore, two ideas are paramount in vv. 13-14. The relationship of the believer to God is possible only because God takes the initiative. Because he chooses to call us, salvation happens (John 15:16).

The Bible does not indicate that divine election nullifies human responsibility. Election is an assuring truth for believers, but never an excuse for unbelievers.

The best interpretation or word picture of election that has come to me is that as we



Scoper

approach the door of salvation (Matt. 7:14), above its portal is carved the inscription "Whosoever will may come."

Once we respond to God's great invitation (Jn. 3:16), and enter through the Door, we turn to see another inscription above the inside portal: "Chosen in him before the foundation of the world."

In v. 15, Paul admonished the Thessalonians to "stand firm and hold to (to be guided by) the teachings we passed on (handed down) to you." A firm grasp of this doctrine would eventually establish Thessalonica as "the Orthodox City," a Christian stronghold.

Paul's prayer for the believers — stand firm in God's strength (2:16-17). This benediction prayer is a magnificent affirmation of Paul's gratitude grounded in the Gospel itself, especially in the initiation of our salvation by God.

In v. 16, his grace in our lives is affirmed in three ways: (1) He has loved us through

the coming of Jesus, who is the full expression of God's love (Jn. 1:14).

Furthermore, we are daily supported by God's unlimited, inexpressible love. (2) He has given us "eternal encouragement" through the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:16, 260, and Jesus himself is our advocate, our counsel who is called alongside to strengthen and support us.

(3) In an age of despair, how powerful is "good hope" grounded in God's grace! Good hope speaks of the worthy character of the believers' confident expectation.

Paul's request for prayer — stand firm in God's service (3:1-5). We cannot help but be struck by the difference between God's prayer and ours. It is human to pray for personal safety; it is divine to prefer the spread of the Gospel.

His request had two concerns — first, that the message spread rapidly and be honored, literally, "that the Gospel might have a triumphant career and be received with honor," indicating not only swift progress but also unhindered advancement. Paul was fond of athletic

terms, and v. 1 reflected the Greek games, when a runner outdistanced his opponents.

The second concern for which the Thessalonians were asked to pray was for Paul's deliverance from "wicked and evil men," implying a specific group of individuals. Paul was writing from Corinth, where many unbelieving Jews opposed his ministry.

Turning suddenly from his own trials to those his readers faced, Paul consoled them by saying, "but the Lord is faithful." The one sure comfort that the Thessalonians could count on in the face of such hostility was the faithfulness of God.

Paul concluded in v. 5 with a touching and priceless gem of intercession for his beloved friends, that the Lord would direct their hearts, i.e., clear the way of obstacles and open a path. We now see Paul's two requests were closely related, because the Gospel can spread rapidly only as obstacles are removed from its path of progress.

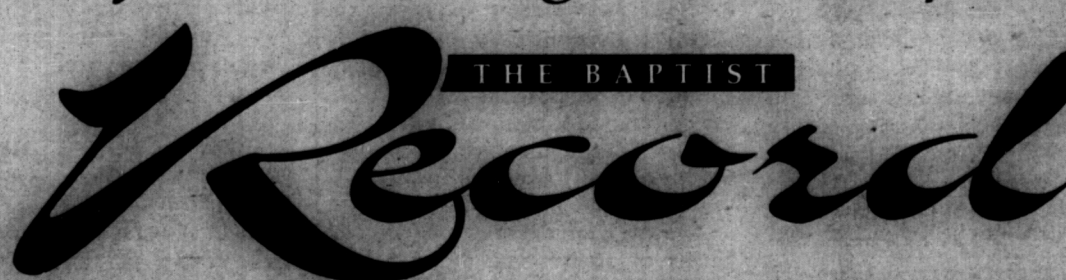
Scoper is a member of First Church, Laurel.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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1-31, 2001
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"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

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Indians challenging Hindu caste system

LONDON (BP) — Almost overshadowed by some Christians exaggerating the spiritual significance of the event, between 50,000 and 100,000 outcast Hindus descended on New Delhi Nov. 4 to participate in a historic anti-caste political rally.



HERITAGE OF CARING — As religious fervor begins to boil over in multi-ethnic India, Southern Baptists continue to contribute to the legacy of Christian missions in India of hospitals, schools, and colleges and numerous other ministries. Rebekah Naylor (right) a physician appointed by the International Missionary Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, tends to a patient at the long-standing Baptist Hospital in Bangalore. (BP photo)

Bibliocipher

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WREU, HUYUCIUKD EU;
RWX MDLGLUIUH GDRAA
HUYUCIU EU, HUYU-
CIUKD WLK EU, SJK DCE
KDRK GUWK EU.

ERHP WCWU: KDCHKB-

GUIUW

Clue: W = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm Eleven: Four.

Thousands of participants repudiated the oppression of the Hindu caste system by converting to Buddhism and calling on other Dalits (oppressed ones) to follow suit and leave Hinduism for another religion.

Invited Christian leaders such as Joseph De Souza and John Dayal of the All India Christian Council made speeches of solidarity to the assembled Dalits.

"The [Buddhist] conversions are also very significant because they reject the cultural nationalism being propagated by the Hindu [extremist] groups," said Richard

Howell, general secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of India, who also participated in the rally.

Contrary to the expectations of some foreign Christian observers, no organized Scripture distribution or Dalits' baptisms into the Christian faith took place at the rally.

Some Christian organizations had spoken in terms of "300 million Dalits on the verge of conversion to Christianity" and raised funds to distribute Scriptures and to build tents on the site to baptize Dalits.

The rally organizer, Ram Raj, wrote a stern letter on Oct. 27 demanding a halt to such claims and practices, stressing that Christian leaders had merely been invited to participate as guests and show solidarity; they had received no permission to conduct evangelistic activities during the rally itself.

Nevertheless, Hindu extremists downloaded the hype from websites and demanded that the rally be banned. The district commissioner of police revoked the rally permit with two days to go, noting that "material downloaded from the Internet clearly indicates that there is an organized attempt to use this rally for mass scale of conversion."

Rally organizers maintained they had a right to convert to another religion in whatever numbers they chose and gathered at a second site — the Ambedkar Bhavan grounds — on the same day.

Organizers claimed 350,000 Dalits were prevented from boarding trains and traveling to New Delhi for the rally. Yet in the end and despite a tense standoff with police at the original site, the crowds gathered and dispersed peacefully and were not attacked by Hindu extremist mobs.

The event was organized by the All India Federation of Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes Organization (AICSSO), of whom Ram Raj was the main spokesperson. A civil servant, he converted to Buddhism and changed his name to Udit Raj.

Scheduled Castes refers to the 150 million so-called "untouchables" who are at the bottom of India's economic system and who in many villages today find it is still taboo to draw water from wells or enter the homes of high caste neighbors.

Scheduled Tribes refers to the 80 million tribal people. Both groups are technically outside the caste system.

Udit Raj has maintained that India is still run by high caste elites who do not care about the poor, and that the only way to challenge this system is for the lower castes like the Dalits to exercise their freedom of religion and leave Hinduism, which justifies and perpetuates the caste system.

Hindu culture maintains that people are born into a certain social stratum due to their cycle of reincarnation. Those in lower castes are thought to be paying the cost of wrongs committed earlier.

Even Mahatma Gandhi, while asking for human rights for Dalits, still saw caste as the essence of Hinduism and wanted merely to reform it, not abolish it.

"This is the first public protest that Hinduism has failed as a system," Dayal noted. Howell agreed, saying, "Castism contains two evils in one — it is racism plus dehumanization."

A form of affirmative action exists in the Indian constitution to help untouchables. Approximately 15% of university admissions and government loans and jobs go to Dalits.

Unfortunately, untouchables who convert to the Christian faith lose any such entitlements — something many feel will have to change if a large-scale conversion to Christianity is to take place.

Indian 'untouchables' being swayed by Buddhism

NEW DELHI (BP) — An Indian bureaucrat-turned-activist has launched a movement to encourage hundreds of thousands of low-caste Hindus to embrace Buddhism, a religion that would give them equal status in society.

The move is strongly opposed by extremist Hindu organizations, including some closely allied to governing Bharatiya Janata Party, according to a Nov. 6 report on CNSNews.com.

On the other hand, Roman Catholic bishops have supported it, on the grounds that India's constitution guarantees the right of its citizens to choose the religion of their choice.

Ram Raj, an income tax officer behind the movement aimed at bettering the lives of low-caste Hindus (called "Dalits" or "untouchables"), oversaw a first mass conversion ceremony on Sunday, when thousands of people converted to Buddhism.

Raj and his followers defied police restrictions and political opposition to hold the conversion ceremony in front of a bronze Buddha in New Delhi.

Raj argued that despite a constitutional guarantee of equal rights for all Indian citizens, Hindus continue to enforce a rigid caste hierarchy.

Efforts to improve Dalits' lives by offering them reserved government jobs, educational opportunities, and a range of other incentives have not worked, he said.

Fifty years after independence, the Indian mindset has not changed.

"The government does not want the Dalits to walk out of

the age-old caste system and this is the main reason for their opposition to conversion of Dalits to Buddhism," Raj said during the ceremony.

He claimed millions of Dalits across the country were waiting to convert to Buddhism, tired of being discriminated against. A crowd estimated at between 8,000 and 20,000

changed their religion on Sunday, although organizers claim police prevented many more from arriving at the venue from other areas.

Low-caste Hindus comprise one-fourth of India's more than 1 billion people and the biggest voting bloc in democratic institutions.

Dalits are at the lowest rung of the caste ladder, and their occupation was regarded to be scavenging. The former priestly class, the Brahmins — the only ones allowed to perform religious rituals — are at the top.

Although discrimination against Dalits is outlawed, it remains a widespread phenomenon. Dalits can even face death if they enter a temple reserved for upper-caste Hindus.

Most political parties woo Dalits during election campaigns, but "simply dump them" once the votes have been cast, one conversion advocate contended.

An official of a Dalit political party, meanwhile, criticized the mass conversions, calling the ceremony a political gimmick and asking whether the thousands of converts would formally relinquish their status, thus surrendering the various incentives the government gives low-caste Hindus.



MEDICAL MISSIONS — A free medical camp for the poor run by the Waterbury Memorial Telugu Church in Perambur, Madras (India), is one of the ways Baptists are making a difference for Christ in a land of religious upheaval. Every year more than 800-1000 people are treated by the best doctors associated with the church. (BP photo courtesy of Baptist World Alliance)